



CITY OF SOUTH BEND PETE BUTTIGIEG, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

STEPHANIE STEELE
CORPORATION COUNSEL

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August 5, 2019

Taylor Amarel
411A Highland Ave MR DEPT 77819
Somerville, MA 02144
Via E-Mail – 77819-27539585@requests.muckrock.com

Re: Public Records Request AR19-2046
Reasonable Particularity

Dear Mr. Amarel:

Your public records request filed with this office on August 2, 2019, has been referred to me. You have requested “*All emails sent to, from, or copied to Pete Buttigieg from January 1, 2019 to June 1, 2019 containing any of the following non-case-sensitive key-strings: “EB-5”, “USCIS”, “AOC”, “Whistleblower”, “Clinton”, or “POTUS”*”

Your request has not satisfied the elements of specificity considered to be reasonably particular. The threshold requirement for a public records request under the Indiana Access to Public Records Act (the “APRA”) is that it must “identify with reasonable particularity the record being requested.” See I.C. 5-14-3-3(a)(1). As stated by Indiana Public Access Counselor in *Formal Complaint 17-FC-13*, “[t]hese [reasonable particularity] guidelines... exist to... help save limited time and resources available to public agencies in having to procure massive sets of records.” Although “reasonable particularity” is not defined within the APRA, the Indiana Court of Appeals has addressed this issue in *Anderson v. Huntington County Bd. Of Com’rs.*, 983N.E.2d 613 (Ind. Ct. App. 2013). Furthermore, the Indiana Public Access Counselor has addressed this issue as it relates to requests for emails in several opinions, including *Formal Complaint 18-FC-63* and *Informal Inquiry 15-INF-26*, in which current Public Access Counselor Luke Britt explained that in order to be reasonably particular, a request for emails must identify, at a minimum, a named sender, named recipient, time frame of six months or less, and a specific subject matter or set of precise key words.

Your request for email correspondence does not specify any senders or recipients hat Pete Buttigieg would have exchanged e-mails with. Therefore, I am unable to perform an email search for your request at this time. However, please note you have the opportunity to amend or resubmit your request with details that meet the standard set forth above, should you still wish to pursue receiving records related to this request.

Sincerely,

Danielle Campbell Weiss
Assistant City Attorney